

In the Claims:

Claims 1 to 10 (Canceled).

1      11. (New) Semifinished product of composite material,  
2                consisting of a metallic matrix material (11) and of high  
3                tensile strength fibers (12) embedded in the matrix  
4                material (11), whereby the metallic matrix material (11) is  
5                formed of titanium or a titanium based alloy, characterized  
6                in that ceramic particles (13) are encased or embedded in  
7                the matrix material (11) for increasing the strength of the  
8                semifinished product with respect to torsional loading or  
9                transverse loading.

1      12. (New) Semifinished product according to claim 11,  
2                characterized in that the embedded ceramic particles (13)  
3                comprise a size in the micron range to the nanometer range.

1      13. (New) Semifinished product according to claim 11,  
2                characterized in that the embedded ceramic particles (13)  
3                are uniformly distributed in the matrix material (11).

1      14. (New) Semifinished product according to claim 11,  
2                characterized in that the embedded high tensile strength  
3                fibers (12) are silicon carbide fibers.

1       17. (New) Method according to claim 16, characterized in that  
2           the coating of the high tensile strength fibers (12) with  
3           titanium or the titanium based alloy is carried out under  
4           a reactive atmosphere.

1       18. (New) Method according to claim 17, characterized in that  
2                  the coating of the high tensile strength fibers (12) with  
3                  titanium or the titanium based alloy is carried out under  
4                  a nitrogen atmosphere, whereby nitrogen atoms together with  
5                  titanium particles or particles of the titanium based alloy  
6                  deposit ceramic particles (13) into the coating.

1       **19.** (New) Method according to claim 18, characterized in that  
2                  ceramic particles (13) in the form of titanium nitrides are  
3                  deposited into the coating.

1       **20.** (New) Method according to claim 16, characterized in that  
2                  the coating is carried out as PVD coating, preferably as  
3                  sputtering.

[REMARKS FOLLOW ON NEXT PAGE]